

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

### EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. XVII, No. 9, September, 1919

EXCERPTS FROM EDITORIAL NOTES

*Locations for Doctors.*—The physicians of California who have been in service are rapidly returning to their homes. Many of them are seeking new locations. A general shaking-up of locations is in progress. There are many opportunities for practice in the smaller towns and rural sections, especially, and there are many places where physicians are urgently needed. It is requested that every person knowing of any such need or opportunity for practice will communicate with the office of the State Medical Society, as this office is in a position to place many doctors throughout the State if only local needs can be recognized. It is a matter of service to these communities, and also of service to the returning physicians who wish to lose no time in reestablishing themselves. It is the desire of this office to serve both. Will you assist? . . .

*The Boy Scouts' Oath.*—The Boy Scout promises on his honor

"1. To do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the Scout Law,

2. To help other people at all times,

3. To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."

How is that for a program for the average busy physician? This latter has all too little time to consider questions of morals and ethics. . . .

*Lines of Effective Preventive Medicine.*—According to the summary of mortality statistics for 1917 by the Census Bureau, twenty-seven states, forty-three cities additional, and the District of Columbia, containing all told, 73 per cent of the population of the United States, now comprise the registration area of the United States. Over a third of the recorded deaths in this area were due to cardio-renal disease, apoplexy, cancer, enteritis, influenza, diabetes, diphtheria and bronchitis. Here is a group of diseases on which preventive medicine should concentrate. Epidemic diseases with known or unknown bacterial causes are rapidly being rendered controllable. . . .

*Medical Examinations.*—Few graduates of medical schools have failed to comment at some time on the imperfect coaptation of medical examinations to the problem of determining if a certain student has learned enough to make a safe and fairly efficient doctor. The same problem arises in the examinations of state medical examining boards. How shall it be determined that a certain applicant can be released upon the public with assurance of safety to the public and benefit to the sick? We are not now concerned with the further problem, equally crucial, as to how it shall be determined whether representatives of various faddist and short-cut methods are safe to be entrusted with the function of healing.

(Continued in Front Advertising Section, on Page 20)

† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

Historical reminiscences, papers and other archives will be welcomed by the C.M.A. Committee on History, to whom such should be sent. Address same to the Committee's Secretary, Dr. George H. Kress, Room 2004, 450 Sutter, San Francisco, 8.

## BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By F. N. SCATENA, M. D.

Secretary-Treasurer

### Board Proceedings

A regular meeting of the Board of Medical Examiners was held at the Elks Club, Los Angeles, from August 21st to 24th, inclusive.

Applicants for written examination included Physicians and Surgeons, Chiropodists and one Midwife.

An oral examination was held at the Board office in Los Angeles on August 19th, such examinations being required of applicants basing their application to California on a license issued more than ten years ago by their home state.

Legal hearings were held, pursuant to the issuance of citations, and complaints charging infractions of various sections of the Business and Professions Code.

### News

"Charges that Dr. M. M. Kirksey, physician and surgeon at the Stockton State Hospital, was abusive to patients and fellow employees, were filed with the State Personnel Board today by Dr. Margaret H. Smyth, hospital superintendent, who asked for Dr. Kirksey's dismissal from State service. On June 7, Dr. Smyth charged, Dr. Kirksey lifted patient Lew Fay by the hair and hurled him several feet. The complaint accuses Dr. Kirksey, who has been on the hospital staff since June of 1936, of making physical attacks upon George Schlein, Emil Berke and Joe Vaughn, hospital employees." (Associated Press dispatch, dated Sacramento, Aug. 3, from San Francisco *Call-Bulletin*, Aug. 3, 1944.)

"A restraining suit brought by 20 chiropractors of the Los Angeles area in the Sacramento county superior court yesterday charged that the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners had 'interfered' with their operations. The action, brought by attorney Morris Lavine, alleged the Board acted arbitrarily and without a hearing to revoke the plaintiffs' licenses. Judge Peter Shields will decide August 7 whether to issue a permanent restraining order." (Los Angeles *Daily News*, July 15, 1944.)

"In an unheralded appearance in Superior Court yesterday, Dr. Roland W. Harris, chiropractor, charged with the murder of Mrs. Julia Zubillaga, 26-year-old mother of five children, walked into the courtroom of Judge Leslie E. Still with his attorneys, Walfred Jacobson and Henry Rupp, and asked the court for permission to withdraw his plea of not guilty to the murder charge and to enter a plea of guilty to a charge of manslaughter. Judge Still granted the permission and ordered Harris arraigned on the charge of manslaughter. . . . Manslaughter is a probational offense in California, and on his plea of guilty the chiropractor may be granted straight probation without imprisonment or he may be granted probation with the condition that he spend some time in the county jail. If the probation in any form is granted, the chiropractor will escape the penitentiary, but if probation is denied he will be sentenced to the State prison from 1 to 10 years." (Long Beach *Sun*, July 14, 1944.)

((Continued in Back Advertising Section, on Page 50))

† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6. News items are submitted by the Secretary of the Board.

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### BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

(Continued from Text Page 178)

"Joseph W. Williams, special agent for the California Board of Medical Examiners, today arrested William Edward Gray, 48, of Albany, Calif., on charges of practicing a system of treating sick persons without a license. Gray was released on \$500 cash bail after an appearance in police court. Williams said Gray, who allegedly operated offices in Albany and San Francisco, treated patients by touching afflicted spots with his fingers, claiming healing power by his touch. He charged \$5 per treatment, and averaged 10 to 15 patients a day at his Vallejo residence, Williams said . . ." (Long Beach Sun, July 12, 1944.)

"The city, because of the Naval Hospital, is interested in a report from Rear Adm. George C. Thomas, 11th District medical officer, that Southern California is the Navy's largest medical center. There are more than 17,000 Navy, Marine and Coast Guard patients in this area, and the number soon will pass 21,000, he said. The report states that: 'The Navy Hospital at Long Beach, commanded by Capt. Paul M. Albright (M.C.) U.S.N., has more than 1600 patients. This hospital has won note for its general medical treatment. The other three general medical hospitals of the Navy in this area are at Corona, San Diego and Oceanside. The one at San Diego is the nation's largest Naval Hospital, there being 9000 patients there.'" (Long Beach Press-Telegram, July 19, 1944.)

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